

Our country is going in a seriously wrong direction when government policy consolidates media outlets in the hands of powerful individuals. I can think of few things that endanger the health of our democracy than limiting citizens' ability to hear multiple points of view on issues of the day from the medium they turn to most, i.e. t.v. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of how this policy can backfire.

Since Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, it must air diverse points of view in an equal format (two documentaries, not one with a rebuttal), otherwise it is simply functioning as a mouthpiece for a particular political party. This is a cynical use of the public media to create a big brother society, something the Republican Party is supposedly fiercely against. Well, here we are.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.